

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nishikawa et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,859,491) in view of *Eppler et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,804,666) and further in view of *Stout* (U.S. Patent No. 3,898,091).

Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants propose to cancel claims 10 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment. Upon entry of this paper, claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11 would be pending.

The Disposition of the Claims

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11.

While Applicants agree that these claims are allowable and patentably distinguish over the prior art, Applicants respectfully do not acquiesce that patentability resides only in the features expressed in pages 3-4 of the Final Office Action, nor that each and every feature recited in the claims is required for patentability.

Further, to expedite the prosecution, Applicants propose to cancel claims 10 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 10 and 12 as the cancellation of claims 10 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer render the rejections moot. Applicants further respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

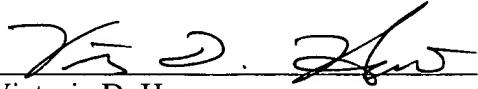
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicants also respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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